

SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS
JUNE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2003



By

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ABSTRACT

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries will be limited to no more than three 16-hour fishing periods by seine and drift gillnet gear in any seven days. Fishing will not be allowed on more than two consecutive days for seine and drift gillnet gear. Set gillnet gear may fish during daily 16-hour periods as long as the daily sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka* to chum salmon *O. keta* ratio from the commercial catch is equal to, or greater than, the previous 10-year average through June 24. After June 24, fishing time for set gillnet gear will be the same as for seine and drift gillnet gear. After June 24, if the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is 2:1 or less, the next fishing period will be for only six hours and if the ratio falls below two sockeye per chum salmon for two consecutive fishing periods, the fishery will be closed for the remainder of June. Prior to June 25, the fishing periods for seine and drift gillnet will be the same in both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands.

This document is intended as a guide for commercial fishermen, buyers, and tender operators. Information regarding specific commercial salmon openings should be received from the department prior to fishing.

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide commercial fishermen and processors with information that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) will use to manage the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fisheries. During the most recent 10 years, the South Unimak sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* harvest has averaged 1,002,154 fish (Table 1) while the Shumagin Islands sockeye salmon harvest averaged 383,303 fish (Table 2). The combined South Unimak and Shumagin Islands average sockeye salmon harvest during 1993-2002 was 1,385,457 fish (Table 3).

The first fishing period for set gillnet gear will be from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM on June 10 in both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries. The first fishing period for seine and drift gillnet gear may be between June 10 and 12.

Inseason announcements will be broadcast over AM radio station KSDP in Sand Point, VHF channels 6 and 73, and on Single Side Band (SSB) frequencies 3.230, 3.261, and 4.125 MHz. Information may also be obtained over the ADF&G record-a-phone in Sand Point at 383-2334 (383-ADFG).

As required by 5 AAC 39.130, (a)(3) buyers must report daily their salmon purchases by species (in both numbers of fish and pounds), and number of deliveries by gear type to either the ADF&G office in Cold Bay or Sand Point. Processors must provide the department with catch reports before 9:30 AM on the morning after a fishing period ends. Contact can be made over VHF 6, SSB 3.230 or 3.261 MHz. Buyers may also phone or fax their information to either the Cold Bay or Sand Point office.

Cold Bay	Telephone: 532-2419	Fax: 532-2470
Sand Point	Telephone: 383-2066	Fax: 383-2606

Fish tickets must be delivered to the ADF&G offices in Cold Bay or Sand Point (addresses listed below) within seven days of the purchase date or be hand delivered to an ADF&G representative on the fishing grounds.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661

REGULATORY CHANGES MADE BY THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AT THE JANUARY 2001 MEETING

In 2001, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) made the following regulation changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery:

1. Eliminated the sockeye salmon guideline harvest levels.

2. Eliminated the chum salmon *O. keta* guideline harvest levels.
3. Limited fishing time to no more than 16 hours per day by any gear group.
4. Limited total fishing time by seine and drift gillnet gear to no more than 48 hours in any (floating) seven day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven day period.
5. From June 10 through June 24, set gillnet gear may fish on consecutive days for 16-hour fishing periods in the South Unimak and/or Shumagin Islands fisheries as long as the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratio in that fishery is equal to or greater than the recent 10-year average for that fishery. If the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratio falls below the recent 10-year average in one of the fisheries, that fishery will be closed for one period. From June 10 through June 24, daily fishing periods for set gillnet gear will be from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM.
6. Purse seine and drift gillnet fishing periods through June 24 will occur simultaneously in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries.
7. After June 24 in either the South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fishery, if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon by all gear combined is 2:1 or less on any day, the next fishing period shall be of six hours duration for all gear in that fishery. If the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is 2:1 or greater, the fishing period can be extended to a maximum of 16 hours. The South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fishery shall be closed for the remainder of June to all gear groups if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon is 2:1 or less for two consecutive fishing periods.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Management Plan is in effect from June 10 through June 30. Historically, sockeye salmon abundance peaks between June 13 and June 22, and usually declines rapidly after June 22.

All daily fishing periods will be 16 hours in length, from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM, except that after June 24 if the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is 2:1 or less, the following fishing period will be six hours. Prior to June 25, fishing time for seiners in the Shumagin Islands and seiners and drift gillnetters at South Unimak will be the same.

The South Unimak June fishery includes the following locations (Figure 1):

- A. Unimak District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (c).
- B. Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (b) (2).
- C. Ikatan Bay Section of the Southwestern District as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (d) (1).

D. Those waters of the Southwestern District, in addition to the Ikatan Bay Section, listed below:
This does not include CLOSED WATERS as described under 5 AAC 09.350.

1. Those waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (54° 57.32' N lat., 162° 33.50' W long.).
2. Those waters enclosed by a line from Thin Point to the northern tip of Stag Point (54° 59.10' N lat., 162° 18.10' W long.) on Deer Island to Dolgoi Cape (55° 03.15' N lat., 161° 44'.35' W long.) and from Bluff Point (55° 09.93' N lat., 161° 53.72' W long.) to Arch Point (55° 12.30' N lat., 161° 54.30' W long.).

The Shumagin Islands fishery includes only the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 2) as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (f) (3). DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICTS AND SECTIONS.

Fishermen should be aware that waters closed to commercial salmon fishing, as specified under 5 AAC 09.350 in the regulation book, are in effect during June. Waters near Sanak Island will be closed to commercial salmon fishing through June 30 to avoid large catches of chum salmon. Although there is no information about the origin of chum salmon in this area, this section will be closed to abide by the BOF general intent to minimize chum salmon harvest in this fishery. These waters are south of the latitude of Hague Rock and east of the longitude of Cape Pankof (Figure 1). Gillnet fishermen are reminded that the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries are the only fisheries in the South Peninsula that have no minimum salmon gillnet mesh size.

The initial fishing period for seiners and drift gillnetters will be between June 10 and June 12. The first fishing period for set gillnet gear will be on June 10. Set gillnetters should report their sockeye to chum salmon ratios to the ADF&G at Cold Bay or Sand Point between 6:30 PM and 7:00 PM each evening during a fishing period over VHF channel 6 (also 73 at Sand Point) or on SSB frequencies 3.230 or 3.261 MHZ. If the reports indicate the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is greater than or equal to the recent 10-year average, the fishery will reopen for 16 hours during the following day. If the fishery is reopened on the following day (day 2), but reports from the processors result in a sockeye to chum salmon ratio below the recent 10-year average, then the fishery will be closed during the next day (day 3). If the number of verbal reports of the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is insufficient, ADF&G will assume that the ratio is less than the previous 10-year average and the fishery will remain closed to set gillnet gear during the following day. **The average set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratios for 1993-2002 are 7.3:1 at South Unimak and 13.2:1 in the Shumagin Islands (Table 4).**

In the past, seiners have occasionally harvested large numbers of immature salmon in June. ADF&G will consider restrictions in fishing time for seiners in areas where this is occurring.

GPS COORDINATES AND ENFORCEMENT

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Department of Public Safety use global positioning system (GPS) technology to identify districts, sections, closed waters, and regulatory fishing

coordinates published in regulations or emergency orders. Fishermen may need to verify the latitude and longitude of their fishing sites using GPS technology and confirm their location in regards to regulatory boundaries, lines, and coordinates. It is not either agency's intent to displace fishing in traditional sites or change fishing areas. Any fisherman who believes they are being affected by the use of GPS should contact ADF&G offices in Port Moller, Sand Point, or Cold Bay immediately. Emergency order authority may be used to accommodate traditional fishing activities.

Table 1. South Unimak June commercial salmon harvest, in number of fish, by species, 1993-2002.

Year	Number of Fish ^a				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1993	4,587	2,366,573	506	37,735	381,941
1994	4,468	1,001,250	1,271	1,731,741	374,409
1995	7,850	1,451,490	5,102	119,094	342,307
1996	1,228	572,495	11,730	146,799	129,889
1997	3,041	1,179,179	501	332,262	196,016
1998	1,259	974,628	312	125,906	195,454
1999	2,258	1,106,208	1	20,302	186,886
2000	2,064	892,016	303	210,521	168,888
2001	134	121,547	2	31,812	36,099
2002	433	356,157	3	33,789	201,211
1993-2002					
Average	2,732	1,002,154	1,973	278,996	221,310

^a Numbers of salmon do not include test fish catches.

Table 2. Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon harvest, in number of fish, by species, 1993-2002.

Year	Number of Fish ^a				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1993	4,879	607,171	727	43,401	150,306
1994	3,122	460,013	308	760,773	207,756
1995	6,897	653,831	940	59,541	195,126
1996	1,617	456,475	1,489	230,885	229,931
1997	2,770	449,002	59	273,675	126,309
1998	1,437	314,097	164	348,434	50,165
1999	793	269,191	1	10,237	58,420
2000	785	359,212	1	149,508	70,469
2001	211	29,085	0	7,439	12,251
2002	2,010	234,949	1	42,462	177,606
1993-2002					
Average	2,452	383,303	369	192,636	127,834

^a Numbers of salmon do not include test fish catches.

Table 3. Combined South Unimak-Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon harvest, in number of fish, by species, 1993-2002.

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1993	9,466	2,973,744	1,233	81,136	532,247
1994	7,590	1,461,263	1,579	2,492,514	582,165
1995	14,747	2,105,321	6,042	178,635	537,433
1996	2,845	1,028,970	13,219	377,684	359,820
1997	5,811	1,628,181	560	605,937	322,325
1998	2,696	1,288,725	476	474,340	245,619
1999	3,051	1,375,399	2	30,539	245,306
2000	2,849	1,251,228	304	360,029	239,357
2001	345	150,632	2	39,251	48,350
2002	2,443	591,106	4	76,251	378,817
1993-2002					
Average	5,184	1,385,457	2,342	471,632	349,144

^a Numbers of salmon do not include test fish catches.

Table 4. South Unimak-Shumagin Islands June fisheries sockeye and chum salmon commercial harvest by set gillnet gear, 1993-2002.

Year	South Unimak		Shumagin Islands	
	Sockeye	Chum	Sockeye	Chum
1993	66,304	8,323	75,913	3,146
1994	56,900	5,593	113,090	7,179
1995	47,097	8,393	120,879	12,232
1996	23,247	2,270	114,158	9,482
1997	108,005	9,371	110,199	7,891
1998	48,100	6,111	158,881	10,701
1999	36,553	5,849	69,083	3,981
2000	54,330	7,348	81,238	3,889
2001	8,841	1,747	4,380	849
2002	28,931	10,096	54,814	9,201
Average	47,831	6,510	90,264	6,855
Average Sockeye to				
Chum Salmon Ratio,				
1993-2002	7.3:1		13.2:1	

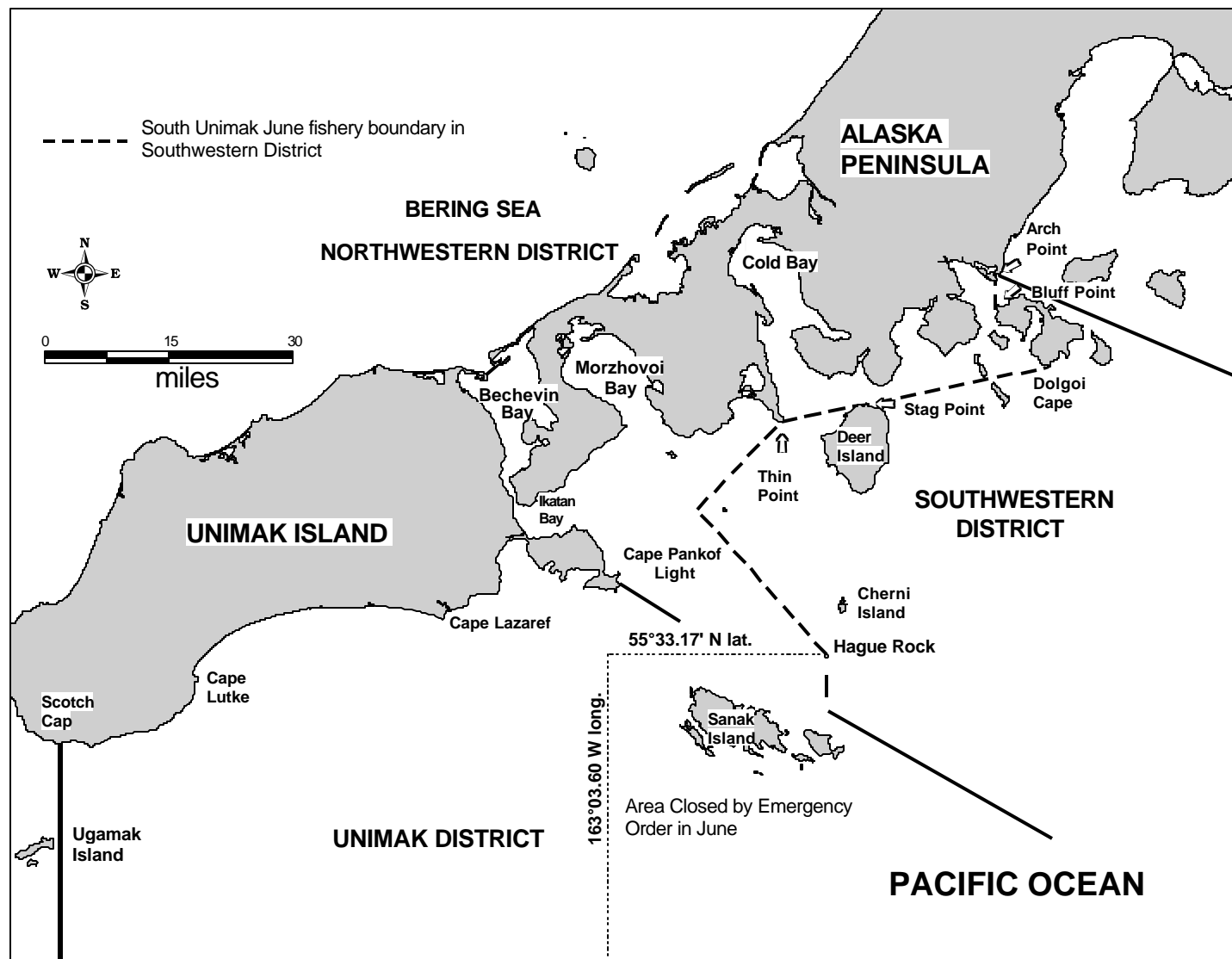


Figure 1. Map of the South Unimak June fishery.

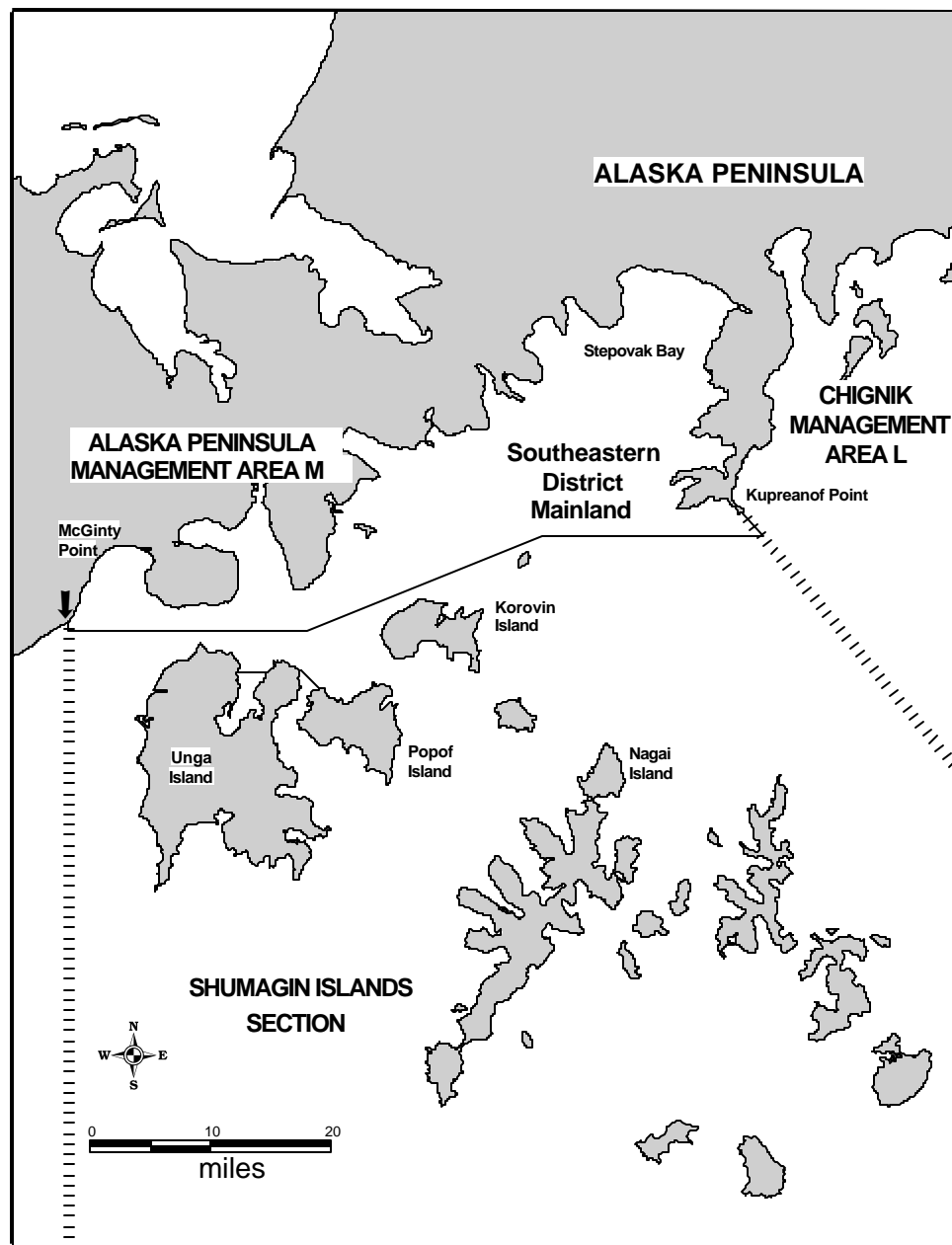


Figure 2. Map of the Shumagin Islands Section.

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If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203 or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

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